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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9175  
INFO RUEHAAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2405  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0148  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4190  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1303  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2074  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7113  
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 8285  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5623  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0945  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3137  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 9885  
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 3271  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 6032  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 0923  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2332  
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 3654  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0651  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2321  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 002207

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TAGS: PGOV ASEC PHUM PREL PK

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT, CHIEF JUSTICE'S ATTORNEY REFUSE TO  
COMPROMISE, CASE CONTINUES IN SUPREME COURT

REF: ISLAMABAD 2033 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Peter Bodde, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) Since May 14, Pakistan's Supreme Court has held daily hearings to consider 23 petitions objecting to the filing of a reference against Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry.

The Court has issued no opinions since the opening of arguments. Supreme Judicial Council proceedings against the Chief Justice remain in suspense while the Supreme Court hears arguments about the constitutionality of convening the Supreme Judicial Council.

¶2. (C) On May 11, Former Pakistan People's Party Senator Abdullah Riar hosted a quiet meeting at his residence between National Security Advisor Tariq Aziz and Chief Justice Chaudhry's lead counsel, Aitzaz Ahsan, to encourage outside-the-courtroom dialogue between the two sides. According to Riar, the meeting did not go well. Both sides stuck to their formal talking points, and Aziz reportedly remarked that it would be better for Musharraf to accept the court's judgement than to withdraw the reference. The tense meeting ended with both sides saying, "We will see you in court."

¶3. (C) On May 15, Acting Chief Justice Rana Bhagwandas appointed two Supreme Court justices to supervise the investigation into the murder of Supreme Court Additional Registrar Hammad Raza. Four unidentified men entered Raza's home in the early morning hours of May 14 and shot him to death. Police initially characterized the incident as a robbery, but Raza's wife (also a British citizen) and others have claimed that it was a targeted killing. Munir Malik, one of Chief Justice Chaudhry's defense attorneys, told us that Raza and the Chief Justice were close associates. Chief Justice Chaudhry brought Raza with him from Balochistan when

he came to Islamabad to take the position of Chief Justice. After President Musharraf filed the reference against Chaudhry, Pakistan's intelligence and security agencies reportedly questioned Raza several times, according to Malik.

The court has directed police to submit daily status reports on the investigation to the supervising Supreme Court judges.

BODDE